

Wroblewski entered the race for the County Legislature and took office in January 2004. Since his election to the legislature, Tim served as a strong voice on behalf of Erie County's taxpayers. Tim's commitment to his constituency was admirable, and I have always valued his friendship, both on a personal as well as a professional level.

The residents of the towns of West Seneca and South Cheektowaga are better for the service provided to them by Tim Wroblewski, and I want to thank you, Mr. Speaker, for this opportunity to recognize the accomplishments of a responsible and effective public official.

TRIBUTE TO MS. JORDAN ROWAN

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today to congratulate an extraordinary employee of mine who is unfortunately leaving our office this Thursday, November 17, 2005. Ms. Jordan Rowan will be leaving our office to join her future husband, Mr. Coleman Fannin, in Dayton, OH, as well as to pursue other professional opportunities.

Jordan joined my office in fall 2003 as an intern and through her hard work, she advanced to legislative assistant. Among her many areas, she handled environmental issues for me. We share a great love for the environment and for its preservation. Therefore, she has been an indispensable asset to me as the Congress has debated many critical environmental bills this year.

Over the 2 years that she has worked for me, she also has gained the necessary skill of deciphering my cryptic questions with even vaguer clues. Any time I needed her to find an obscure factoid, I could readily rely upon her.

She has a big empathetic heart that, many times, has helped to ground myself and others in my office when a larger perspective was greatly needed. In fact, when most other brides choose to register for wedding gifts to supplement their new lives, she wanted to help others by registering with Heifer International, an organization that provides livestock to families in developing countries. Like Heifer International, she believes in giving but giving with the purpose of empowering others to better themselves economically and socially.

Mr. Speaker, I invite my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in congratulating Ms. Jordan Rowan as she moves on to the next important stage of her life. While exemplifying professionalism and integrity, Jordan has not only brightened my office but also has assisted me legislatively on many important issues. I am proud to have had her work in my office and wish her never-ending success in her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO DETECTIVE MIKE
METZLER

HON. JOHN SHIMKUS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Detective Mike Metzler of Alton, Ill. De-

tective Metzler, a 10-year veteran of the Alton Police Department, was recently awarded the Pastor Paul-Gerhard Braune Award for his work on the department's Crisis Intervention Team, CIT. This State-level award is from the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Illinois.

CIT officers, like Detective Metzler, respond to situations concerning people in a crisis. Detective Metzler has used his training at a CIT office to prevent individuals from committing suicide and has also helped to bring calm to other dangerous situations.

Aside from his work as a CIT officer, he also serves as the Alton public school police-school liaison. As well, he travels to other States to train officers about crisis intervention.

I am pleased to thank Detective Metzler for his outstanding work. I congratulate him on his award.

HONORING SUEY GEE

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the extraordinary life and achievements of World War II veteran Suey W. Gee of Oakland, CA. This weekend Mr. Gee celebrates his 79th birthday, his 80th birthday according to the Chinese lunar calendar. On this special occasion his friends and family will gather to honor him for the immeasurable contributions he has made not only to their lives, but also to our country.

Suey W. Gee was born in Canton, China on November 19, 1926. As a youth, he emigrated to the United States with his father to find work and help support his family back in China. In March 1945, at the age of 19, he enlisted into the U.S. Army to aid his newly adopted country during World War II. He served in the 128th infantry and trained as an anti-aircraft gunner. His unit was ultimately deployed to Hiroshima, Nakasaki and Okinawa following the atomic bombings that destroyed those cities, where he served as part of the occupation army and helped to facilitate the disarmament of Japan.

Mr. Gee was honorably discharged from military service on November 22, 1946. Though Mr. Gee was awarded the World War II Victory Medal, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal under President Franklin D. Roosevelt, due to the metal shortage during the war era, in addition to the fact that he moved around frequently in search of work, he did not receive his medals at that time.

In 1948, Mr. Gee traveled back to China where he married Sue King Gee, and they subsequently returned to the U.S. together. Mr. Gee became a proud citizen of the United States of America on September 18, 1957, and Mrs. Gee became a citizen soon after.

Like many immigrant families who come to America, Mr. and Mrs. Gee faced many obstacles, overcoming poverty, hardship and discrimination as they persevered toward achieving their dreams. They worked in the food service, cannery and sewing industry for over 55 years, remaining steadfastly committed to providing greater opportunities for their children than what they had themselves. Married

for over 58 years, Mr. and Mrs. Gee have three daughters and one son, all of whom are currently living or working in the city of Oakland as active and productive members of our community.

Mr. Gee is retired now and spends his time keeping up with local and national politics. At almost 80 years old, he still votes regularly and remains civically engaged in the country that he served in the U.S. Army more than 60 years ago.

On this very special occasion, Mr. Gee's friends and family will come together not only to celebrate his birthday, but to present him with his hard-earned and well-deserved military service medals over six decades after his honorable discharge. On behalf of California's Ninth Congressional District, I would like to take this opportunity to salute and thank Mr. Suey W. Gee for his brave service to our country, and for his invaluable contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MR. BENJAMIN S.
WONG

HON. HILDA L. SOLIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong of West Covina, California. Mr. Wong was first elected to serve the citizens of West Covina in April 1992 and served as mayor from 1997–1998. He is currently the mayor pro tempore and is completing his service to the city as an elected official this December.

Ms. Wong has a long history of service to the community with membership to various organizations and boards. He is a member of the West Covina Lyons (1981–1994); Board of Directors and former President of the Chamber of Commerce; the Queen of the Valley Foundation; the Queen of the Valley Men's Club; the Intercommunity Medical Center Men's Club, member of the 2100 Club; and First Federal Savings and Loan of San Gabriel Valley Board of Directors, 1991–present.

Mr. Wong's service to the residents of West Covina includes a broad spectrum of boards and municipal organizations, all of which address issues of commerce, urban development and revitalization. This service includes the Redevelopment Agency Relocation Appeals Board; Citizens Committee on Public Services and Facilities; Police Commander Interview Board; San Gabriel Valley Commerce and Cities Consortium Board Member, 1992–present; vice president from 1993–1994; and Foothill Transit Executive Board Member, 1994–present.

In addition to his service to the community, Mr. Wong is a devoted and loving husband to his wife Deborah of 26 years and father to his three children: Courtney, Justin and Adam. It is with pleasure that I recognize Mr. Benjamin S. Wong for his significant contributions and noteworthy dedication and service to his community.

FINALIST FOR THE 2005 NURSING
EXCELLENCE AWARDS

HON. CHARLES A. GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Charles Reed, RN, BSN, CNRN, Patient Care Coordinator for the University Health System in San Antonio. Every year, thousands of nurses across the country are nominated for the 2005 Nursing Excellence Awards. The RNs are nominated by their colleagues, peers, and managers and selected by a panel of nurse leaders. The Nursing Excellence Awards exemplify the best that professional nursing has to offer. They bring initiative, ingenuity, and inspiration to their workplaces and communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in communities, setting the standards for accomplishment in nursing. In addition, the Nursing Excellence Awards recognize extraordinary nurses who represent the countless other dedicated nurses who play a crucial role in the nation's health care system. Mr. Reed's outstanding performance earned him a finalist position in this year's competition.

Mr. Reed rose through the ranks from student nurse to patient care coordinator in the health system and now has duties ranging from meeting staffing needs and coaching, counseling, and mentoring nurses to managing patient care. He ensures clinical practice is kept to the highest standard, frequently by working one-one with nurses, and he often meets with families of ICU patients, once staying over an additional 4 hours to be sure a family's concerns were addressed.

I commend Mr. Reed for all the hard work and dedication he gives to his patients at University Health System and I wish him the best of luck next year.

HONORING THE WHITE ROCK
ROTARY CLUB

HON. JEB HENSARLING

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, today, I would like to help celebrate two significant anniversaries of Rotary International. This year, Rotary International celebrated its 100th anniversary. From its humble roots in Chicago, Illinois, Rotary has grown into a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. Since 1943, Rotary International has distributed more than \$1.1 billion to combat Polio, promote cultural exchanges and encourage community service.

I also want to recognize the White Rock Rotary Club for their 45 years of service to the community. Throughout its history, the White Rock Rotary Club has achieved great success in carrying out the mission of Rotary International.

The White Rock Rotary Club has raised money to support charities and programs, such as Journey of Hope. The White Rock

Rotary Club has also been very involved in a local community project building a picnic pavilion in conjunction with two other local rotary clubs in honor of Rotary International's 100th Anniversary. In addition, they support community endeavors such as tutoring programs and nursing home visits for senior without family members.

Through these initiatives, the White Rock Rotary Club exemplifies the values of service and charity that lie at the heart of American society. As the Congressional representative of the members of this outstanding organization, it is my distinct pleasure to honor them today in the United States House of Representatives.

HONORING RETIRING ERIE COUNTY
LEGISLATOR ELISE M.
CUSACK

HON. BRIAN HIGGINS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the 4 years of elective service by retiring Erie County Legislator Elise M. Cusack.

Legislator Cusack was elected in 2001, replacing a man who was then the Legislature's longest-serving member, William A. Pauly. Legislator Cusack's district includes the towns of Amherst and Tonawanda, but includes a small portion of the town of Cheektowaga, which is located within the 27th Congressional District.

Elise Cusack has been an energetic representative of her constituents, maintaining a full service district office and garnering a reputation for effective constituent service. Although Legislator Cusack and I sit on different sides of the political aisle, I have always respected her intellect and her demonstrated commitment to her constituents.

Beginning on January 1, 2006, Elise Cusack will be able to don her other governmental hat—that of a member of the Board of Trustees of the New York Power Authority—on a full time basis. As someone with a keen interest in the actions of that public authority, I look forward to many anticipated future opportunities to interact with Legislator Cusack in a professional capacity.

In closing, I appreciate this opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to rise and honor the service of Legislator Elise Cusack and I want to offer to her, her husband and children my very best wishes of good luck and Godspeed in all of her future endeavors.

TRIBUTE TO BRENDAN DENIS
O'CONNOR ON THE OCCASION OF
HIS 50TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 18, 2005

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as Congress prepares to recess today for the Thanksgiving holiday, I wish to take a moment to congratulate my friend Brendan O'Connor on the recent occasion of his 50th birthday, November 3, and to express my gratitude for his extraor-

dinary contributions to the greater Worcester, Massachusetts community. In a place rich with kind people and colorful characters, Brendan stands apart but certainly not alone. His quick wit, brilliant sense of humor and boundless compassion have endeared him to countless admirers both near and far. This was never more evident than at the spectacular 50th birthday celebration his wonderful wife Claire and devoted sons Rory and Eamon hosted for him at Worcester's historic Tuckerman Hall on Saturday, October 22, 2005. My wife Lisa and I were honored to attend that unforgettable evening with scores of Brendan's family and closest friends. The night was made truly special by the presence of Brendan's father, Sean, who traveled from the family's native Limerick City, Ireland; and all four of his siblings—his brothers, John, Kevin and Declan, and his sister, Carmel. And while Brendan's dear departed mother Joan (Horgan) O'Connor was not able to be there in person, her spirit was felt in the festive atmosphere that continued well into the night. All in all, the birthday party was an incredible tribute to Brendan but it does not reveal the full measure of the man.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to being a great human being, Brendan O'Connor is a also a very successful entrepreneur. As proprietors of the renowned O'Connor's Restaurant and Bar in Worcester, Brendan and Claire have graciously welcomed thousands upon thousands of hungry and thirsty patrons to their establishment. Every customer that comes through their doors is treated to excellent cuisine accompanied by the sterling service and warm hospitality the Irish have made famous. In fact, O'Connor's has grown to become much more than just a popular dining destination. It has become an institution deeply embedded in the fabric of the Worcester community. This is due in large part to Brendan's remarkable gift for making everyone he encounters feel special and at home.

However, it is important to note that Brendan does not reserve his gifts and talents for his patrons alone. He has generously given his time and energy to numerous civic and charitable causes. As a long-time board member and past-president of the Emerald Club of Worcester County, Brendan has raised enormous financial support for the clients of the Mercy Centre through the promotion of Irish cultural events. His tireless efforts on behalf of the Emerald Club and the Ancient Order of Hibernians earned him the well-deserved honor of having been previously selected as the Grand Marshal of Worcester's annual Saint Patrick's Day Parade. Brendan has also shared his talents with the Worcester area youth as a volunteer soccer coach for many years. His unbridled passion and skillful teaching of the sport have produced numerous championship teams at various competitive levels. More importantly, he has been a positive guiding force in the lives of an untold number of young people.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to simply say that Brendan O'Connor is among the most beloved figures in my hometown of Worcester, Massachusetts. His charm is exceeded only by his devotion to his family and fellow man. I look forward to celebrating many more happy occasions with he and his wife